Our Lady of the Black Hills
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Office hours: **Monday – Friday, 9am – 3pm**

Our Staff

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Liturgy and Prayer

Sunday Liturgy:
Saturday, 5:00 pm;
Sunday, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
Daily Liturgy:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8:00 am
Eucharistic Adoration:
Wednesday, 8:30 am – 8:30 pm, with Reconciliation from 7:00 – 8:15 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:00 pm and Saturday, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Bulletin Announcements

Please email any announcements to bulletin@olbh.org by noon on Tuesday for the following weekend bulletin.

Singing with Scripture

Many of our hymns are inspired by Scripture. The song, *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* is filled with references to the Bible. It is one of my favorite Advent hymns because it is such a rich and ancient prayer. The "O" antiphons in this song are at least 1,200 years old. They were known already at the time of Charlemagne.

In this last week before Christmas, as life gets *crazy busy*, the "O" antiphons might be a good source for your prayer. They are short, yet packed with meaning. In the Church's liturgy, one antiphon is assigned to each day. The translations below are from the Latin text and the Scripture references are included, so that you might reflect more on the biblical roots of this song. Consider praying one antiphon each day.

Dec. 17 "O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High (Sir. 24:30), and reaching from beginning to end, you ordered all things mightily and sweetly (Wis. 8:1). Come, and teach us the way of prudence (Is. 40:14)."

Dec. 18 "O Adonai (Lord) and Ruler of the house of Israel (Mt. 2:6), you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush (Ex. 3:2), and on Mount Sinai gave him your Law (Ex. 20). Come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us (Jer. 32:21)."

Dec. 19 "O Root of Jesse, you stand for an ensign of mankind (Is. 11:10); before you kings shall keep silence, and to you all nations shall have recourse (Is. 52:15). Come, save us and do not delay (Hab. 2:3)."

Dec. 20 "O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel: you open and no man closes; you close and no man opens (Is. 22:22). Come, and deliver him from the chains of prison who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps. 107:10)."

Dec. 21 "O Rising Dawn, Radiance of the Light eternal (Hab. 3:4) and Sun of Justice (Mal. 3:20); come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Lk. 1:78)."

Dec. 22 "O King of the Gentiles and the Desired of all (Hag. 2:8), you are the cornerstone that binds two into one (Eph. 2:20). Come, and save poor man whom you fashion out of clay (Gen. 2:7)."

Dec. 23 "O Emmanuel (Is. 7:14), our King and Lawgiver (Gen. 49:10), the Expected of nations and their Savior (Is. 33:22: come, and save us, O Lord our God."

As we pray these antiphons, they will keep us rooted in the WHY of Christmas.

Peace in Christ, Fr. Steve

This Week at Our Lady of the Black Hills

December 19 - 25, 2011

Monday, December 19

Readings: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Psalms 71:3-6, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25 (violet)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: For Mary Biegler

7:00 pm: Cub Scout Bears Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

Readings: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalms 24:1-6; Luke 1:26-38 (violet)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: + Msgr. Bill Lyons

4:30 pm: Praying the Bible

7:00 pm: Boy Scout Meeting

Wednesday, December 21

Readings: *Song of Songs 2:8-14; Psalms 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45 (violet)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: For Laurie Miller

8:30 am – 8:30 pm: Eucharistic Adoration

9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry

7:00 – 8:00 pm: Reconciliation

Thursday, December 22

Readings: *First Samuel 1:24-28; First Samuel 2:1, 4-8; Luke 1:46-56 (violet)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: For Alfred Biegler

10:00 am: Staff Meeting

6:30 pm: Gatherings of Grace Core Team Meeting

Friday, December 23

Readings: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalms 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Luke 1:57-66 (violet)*

Saturday Morning, December 24

Readings: *Second Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Psalms 89:2-5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67-79 (violet)*

Food Pantry CLOSED

3:30 – 4:30 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Evening, December 24

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Readings: *Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalms 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (white)*

5:00 pm: Liturgy

Mass Intention: For our deceased friends & family

The Nativity of the Lord at Night

Readings: *Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalms 96:1-3, 11-13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14*

10:00 pm: Liturgy

Mass Intention: For the OLBH Community

Sunday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Readings: *Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalms 98:1-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (white)*

9:00 am: Liturgy

Mass Intention: + Cheryl Rohl

Charitable Gifts

INFORMATION FOR 2011

As the end of the calendar year approaches, please remember that charitable contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received. According to the IRS, a donor must relinquish control of donated funds in order to claim a contribution as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes. To prove that control of the funds was relinquished in a certain calendar year, the contribution must be postmarked or delivered in person on or before December 31 to receive the deduction in that year. This is true **regardless of the date on the check**. Since December 31 falls on a Saturday and January 1 falls on a Sunday, collections in the parishes that week-end will be sorted by the calendar year in which the funds were received for accurate donor acknowledgment. If you want donations posted for 2011, they MUST be received by Saturday, December 31, 2011. Thank you.

OLBH Parish News

Donations for Christmas Flowers

The Art & Environment Committee is taking cash donations to buy plants, flowers and decorations to beautify the church for Christmas. If you would like to make a donation, please note "Christmas Decorations" on the check or envelope and put it in the collection plate or drop it off in the office. Thank you for your help.

OLBH Young Adults Snowshoe / Cross Country Ski Trip

All OLBH young adults are invited to go snowshoeing or cross country skiing on Friday, December 23rd. Any college students that will be home for Christmas are encouraged to join us. We'd love to get to see you again while you are home. We will be leaving OLBH at 11:00 am and driving to our destination. Game Fish & Parks has day use snowshoes for free. If you would like to come along, please sign up in the gathering area, or call the parish office at 787-5168 Let's go have fun in the snow!!!

Volunteer Appreciation Party

The staff of OLBH would like to thank all of you who volunteer of your time and talents by hosting a party in your honor. Please join us on Friday, January 6th from 6:00 – 8:30 pm at OLBH. Come and let us thank you.

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Adult Life is hosting a 5 part series study. If you've ever wondered why we say what we say and do what we do during the Liturgy, this is the study for you! Our assignment from last week was - Review the *Introduction* to the study pg. 1-2 & Complete Session 1, *Introductory Rites* pg. 5-10. There is still time to join our group, if you are interested, please contact Betsy at 787-5168 or show up on January 22nd.

High School Mission Trip

I am very excited to announce that OLBH is organizing a Mission Trip for the High School Youth (incoming 9th graders as of 2012) in our diocese, this summer to Denver, Colorado. Registration forms are in the gathering area with fee and payment schedule and will soon be on our website at olbh.org. As usual, we will fundraise to try to pay for half of the fee. We will be having a meeting once registrations are collected at the end of January. Please contact me if you have any questions. Don't miss out! ~ Teresa Thompson

Community News

Position Available

A Playground Supervisor is needed at Piedmont Valley Elementary; ½ hour in the morning and 10:40 am – 12:20 pm $8.25 an hour. Please call Ethan Dschaak at 787-5295

Meals Program Ice Sculptures

The Meals Program (Meals on Wheels) will be holding an Ice Sculpture on Main Street Square on Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 9 am to 9 pm. Randy Finch from Food Network's own Ice Brigade will be here to carve ice and to sign autographs. This event is open to the public and will be a free-will donation. We are in need of sponsors for the ice sculptures. We are also looking for local talented individuals that would like to show off their ice sculpting talents and help the Meals Program make this an annual event. Randy will also be teaching a class during this week that will teach individuals how to carve ice for a fee. We would like to hold a chili cook-off and need individuals to participate with their chili. Please contact Marcia Mayer at 605-394-6002x15 or Marciamayer@rushmore.com for additional information.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

Classes will be Mondays 6:30-8:30 pm, January 9th thru April 2nd. (Childcare available if requested) Located at Grace United Methodist Church, 10060 Foothill Drive, Piedmont. Contact Phyllis in the church office 787-4858, Or Ty & Diana at 390-8002. Please register by the end of December so books can be ordered. Find out more at daveramsey.com.

More Diocese News

Married Sweethearts Mass & Dinner-Dance

Couples, mark your calendars! Saturday, February 11, 2012! Join us for Mass at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The dinner-dance will be held at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Rapid City following Mass. For more information, please contact Kathy at Family Life Ministries 343-3541 or kcordes@diorc.org.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level 1 Training Based on the Bible and liturgy, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I training is a series of formation courses that prepares adults to offer catechesis to children ages three to six years old. The 2012 sessions will be held April 13-15, July 20-22, and October 12-14. The final session will be held February 1-3, 2013. All sessions must be attended to complete the training. The fee is $500 per participant if paid by January 27; $600 if paid after that date. For more information or to register, contact Jenny Scherr at jenny.scherr@olbh.org. Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont, and St. Joseph's, Spearfish, are co-hosting the Level I training.

Diocesan Social Justice Commission

"In this coming election and beyond, we urge leaders and all Catholics to share the message of faithful citizenship and to use this document in forming their own consciences, so we can act together to promote and protect human life and dignity, marriage and family, justice and peace in service to the common good. This kind of political responsibility is a requirement of our faith and our duty as citizens. … Decisions about political life are complex and require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with outright opposition to laws and other policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. Those who knowingly, willingly, and directly support public policies or legislation that undermine fundamental moral principles cooperate with evil."

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States with Introductory Note, 2011/2007, http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/

For the Ride Home

By Ted Bergh

Scripture

- I will fix a place for my people Israel; (2 Samuel 10)
- I will give you rest from all your enemies. (2 Samuel 11)
- For you have said, "My kindness is established forever" (Psalm 89:3)
- To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, (Romans 16:25)
- May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Reflection

- Are you able to say without reservation, "be it done to me according to your word?"
- How is it possible to act with so much faith?
- When is this simplicity of spirit possible that recognizes of the gifts of Jesus and the correct path to follow?

Each of us has his own path to tread and it is more beautiful if it is offered by God. It is foolishness to want another one, and we incur pointless suffering if we insist on things that do not exist or on paths not made for us.

To accept the Kingdom of Heaven within us means to accept the vocation that God prepares for us through the reality in which we live.[1]

[1] Carretto, Carlo, The Desert in the City, Translated by Barbara Wall, (New York, William Collins Sons & Cos. Ltd.) 1979, p.57.

Knights of Columbus Essay Contest

All 7th and 8th graders! The Knights of Columbus essay contest is in full swing. The theme for this year is *"What are your favorite parts of the Hail Mary, and what do you think of as you say this beautiful prayer during the reciting of the Rosary?"* All essays are to be typed, double spaced, contain 300 words or less and be submitted by January 31, 2012. Do not put your name on the essay, but rather on a separate piece of paper and include it with the essay. The essays can be emailed to blehresmann@yahoo.com or mailed to Brad Ehresmann, 21871 Running Deer Trail, Piedmont, SD 57769. If you have any questions, please call me 787-9302. First prize is $25 and then your essay is sent to the state level where you could win up to $100. Last year's local winner was Olivia Lyle. Good luck.

Rapid City Diocese News

Cook Needed for St. Martin Monastery

Applications are being accepted for an afternoon/early evening cook at St. Martin Monastery. If interested in more information please contact srflomcman@aol.com or call 343-8011 and ask for Sister Florence.

Tour Terra Sancta

Reeny Wilson, the Terra Sancta retreat center Director, will lead tours of the construction project at Terra Sancta on Tuesday, December 27, and on Thursday, December 29. The tours will begin at noon at the chapel entrance. Reservations for either tour should be made by Thursday, December 22. To make a reservation, please call Dottie at the chancery office at 343.3541.

Happiness Is an Inside Job

An eight-week non-denominational support group, begins at **7:00 pm on Thursday, January 5, 2012**, at St. Therese the Little Flower Catholic Church, 532 Adams Street, Rapid City. The group uses John Powell's book by the same name to help participants deepen their healing experience following a significant loss due to death, divorce, or any major life change. Christian adults who are looking for peace, joy, and contentment in their lives are encouraged to participate! Pre-registration is requested, but not required. The registration fee is $38.00. Need-based scholarships are available. To pre-register or for more information, contact Jill at Family Life Ministries 605-343-3541.

Catholics Returning Home

Have you been away from the Church for awhile? Have you ever thought about returning? Do you know someone who wants to return to the church? If so, there is a special ministry for people who have been away from the Church. The six-week "Catholics Returning Home" series begins at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at Blessed Sacrament, 4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City.** For more information, contact Greg Sass at greg.sass@olbh.org or 605-939-0579, or visit http://ReturningCatholics.net. There is no charge and pre-registration is not required.

Christian Family Planning Seminar

will be offered by the Natural Family Planning Ministry on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Holy Cross in Timber Lake. This seminar is a requirement for engaged couples getting married in the Diocese of Rapid City. Married couples, or anyone who wants to learn more about Natural Family Planning, are encouraged to attend. For more information, or to register, call Jill or Kathy at Family Life Ministries at 605-343-3541.

Half Day of Prayer

January 28, 2012, Registration 9:00 am, Prayer 9:30 am-11:30 am. Come and "rest awhile with the Lord" and enjoy a morning of silence with periods of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, in the large conference room, St. Martin Monastery. Refreshments will be served. Walk-ins will be welcome. By donation. Sister Marmion Howe, 343-8011, srmarmion@knology.net

Heal Your Grief
Bereavement Support Group

An eight-week non-denominational group open to all Christian adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The support group begins at **7:00 p.m., Monday, January 30, 2012,** at Blessed Sacrament Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City. Please come early to register! For information or to pre-register, call Janece Rieman, 605-343-5547 or Jill at Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541.

Marriage Encounter

The man who finds a wife finds a treasure and receives favor from the LORD. ***Proverbs 18:22*** Let us be thankful for the many gifts God has provided. Show your spouse just how thankful you really are. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is **February 10-12, 2012** at Broom Tree Retreat Center in Irene, SD**.** For more information or to register, please contact Curt & Rochelle Lauret at 605-362-9145 or visit www.WWME.org. *A weekend of discovery ... a lifetime of love!*

Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule

December 24th & 25th, 2011

	Saturday 5:00 pm	Saturday 10:00 pm	Sunday 9:00 am
Bread Baker	Becky Wentz		
Altar Servers	Kevin Chamberlain* Kimberly Schacher Alexandrea Blaha	Bob Weaver Christian Weaver Joshua Weaver	Christopher Van Asma Matthew Van Asma Betsy Van Asma Aric Dyczek
Precious Body **Precious Blood**	John Osnes Jacqui Blaha Barb Scherr Jim Scherr Reggie Hunt	John Osnes John Usera Bernadette Usera Greg Sass Nancy Sass	John Osnes Jean Schubauer Tom Van Asma Marty Quinn Christine Didriksen
Lectors	Reeny Wilson Carrie Baker	Larry Williamson Joyce Williamson	Tony Berendse NEED
Sacristans	Linda & Joe Schacher	Kathy & Ken Van Asma	Barb & Gary Erickson
Greeters	Sue Colgan Steve Colgan	NEED NEED	Duane Schubauer Robert Dyczek
Choir	String Quartette & Covenant Band	OLBH Family Choir	Regina's Minstrels

Intercessory Prayers

Life and Health Concerns

Jessie Bird

Marguerite Gilbert – Judy Gilbert's mother-in-law

Ricky Sass, Mike Steffen, Cary Nickle, Lee Wentz – Bob & Ken Wentz's brother

Repose of the Soul

Bertha Witte – Joyce Williamson's mother

The Collection Basket

December 10 & 11, 2011

Loose	$ 2475.00
Envelopes	2323.00
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Other	635.00
Total	$ 5610.65

"The ordinary arts we practice every day at home are of more importance to the soul than their simplicity might suggest."

~ Thomas More

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